



Bush Budget vs. Reality for Illinoisans

Health Insurance	<i>Recycles old proposals from last year: medical savings accounts (a tax break masquerading as help for the uninsured) and tax credits</i>	43 million Americans are uninsured including 1.7 million in Illinois
Education	<i>Freezes maximum Pell grant amount at \$4,050, despite President's campaign promise to increase maximum to \$5,100</i>	156,000 Illinoisans with Pell Grants receive no additional help, even though tuition at U.S. public universities has increased by 14%
Veterans	<i>Cuts Vets Housing by \$208 million, Cuts Home Loans by \$5.9 billion, Denies thousands of Vets access to VA health system due to lack of service-connected disability, income</i>	1.1 million Veterans in Illinois; Wait time: in Chicago last year, new VA patients waited average 76 days for appointment; other VA patients waited well over 1 month
Housing	<i>Cuts \$533 million from Housing Assistance Programs</i>	Last year in Chicago, average wait for public housing from the time of application until they actually receive assistance is 36 months
Defense	<i>Increases Defense Spending 7% to \$401.7 billion</i>	Does not include \$\$ for military operations and reconstruction in Iraq or Afghanistan beyond September 30; Administration plans on another \$50 billion spending request